

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shauna Lifer
411 Garibaldi Avenue
Roseto, PA 18013
USA

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Jon Houck
308 Morningside Dr. SE
Apt. 204
Albuquerque, NM 87108
USA

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Sincerely,

Ed Cound
4507 Tujunga Ave
Studio City, CA 91602
USA

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Sincerely,

Glenn Devitt
99 Franklin St Apt 2R
Brooklyn, NY 11222
USA

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Sincerely,

Drew Mabry
1801 S. Lincoln Blvd #234
Venice, CA 90291
USA

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Sincerely,

Richard von Glahn
3901 Pikes Peak Rd
Parker, CO 80138
USA

f. d. jones
1225 shelter rock road
orlando fl, 32835

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

f. d. jones

David R. Barrett
1110 Curtin Street
Houston, TX 77018

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

David R. Barrett

B.T. Murtagh
101 Hutson Drive K8
Summerville, SC 29483

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag."

I am content to accept the upcoming changes in the broadcast standard, despite the costs, because I believe they will add new functionality and choice. If that change in standard is perverted into becoming a tool for restricting functionality and choices I currently possess then I am outraged and appalled.

The FCC is supposed to be a body acting in the interests of the public. The broadcast flag is not in the public's interest, only in those of a small oligarchy of powerful media conglomerates. The FCC has in the past had to control access to the *public* airwaves only because of the natural scarcity of usable spectrum, its mandate is not and should never be to protect the profits of corporations at the expense of the public's historical right and ability to time- and media-shift materials broadcast over those *public* airwaves.

The proposed broadcast flag would not only restrict legal functionality I enjoy today, but would also restrict and chill innovation in functionality in the future. That is patently the entire and only purpose of the flag; it is therefore patently not in the public interest, and the FCC, as a government organization which is supposed to protect the public interest, should not support the notion. I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

B.T. Murtagh

Sincerely,

B.T. Murtagh

Robin B. Shore
37 Oliver St.
Apt. 2L
Everett, MA 02149-4600

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a viewer of broadcast TV, and a user of electronics and computer products, I strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am extremely angry that the FCC would consider this regulation, which would restrict my enjoyment of television.

The broadcast flag is in no one's interest but that of Hollywood. Its intent is to disallow consumers to enjoy digital broadcast TV as they currently do analog broadcast TV:

- We will no longer be able to take a video recorded for personal viewing from house to house, or even from room to room.
- We will no longer be able to watch our favorite shows, with our choice of software, on our computers. No more passing time during a plane or train trip -- or, for restless children, during a long car trip -- by watching television.
- Also, thanks to the above prohibition on watching TV with computer software, forget about sending a clip of oneself on the evening news, or one's nephew playing in a high school football game, to family and friends.

What may be worst of all, I think, is that if computers cannot freely receive digital TV, our society's creative minds will be thwarted in their efforts to come up with new devices that expand our viewing experiences in new ways as yet unthought of. Think about TiVo, about ReplayTV, about the Windows Media Center PC -- all of which owe their existence to being built to open standards, using low-cost, off-the-shelf computer parts

If all the above comes to pass, why on earth would I, as a consumer, want to buy new digital TV equipment? Sure, it's a nicer picture. But I can get by very nicely with the analog picture I have now...and do all sorts of wonderful things with it that, if Jack Valenti and his minions get their way, I won't be able to do with digital TV.

As an American, a consumer, and a champion of moving technology forward -- not backward -- I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Robin B. Shore

October 15, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

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If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alaric Battle
122 Bayside Crt
Richmond, CA 94804
USA

Michael McKay
8727 Glen Arbor Road
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

I urge the FCC to drop consideration of the broadcast flag for digital television transmission because of the following reasons

- * It won't be effective.
- * It will raise equipment costs. The technology is complex, and there will be (and already have been) many malfunctions.
- * The broadcast flag will greatly hinder new technology, including innovative uses of computers and digital transmissions.
- * The broadcast flag will restrict both unregulated-use and fair-use. It will interfere with normal and legal features that consumers have are used to having. This will hinder, not help, consumer uptake of HDTV.
- * The decision of how and when the flag can be activated is too important to be left up to the industry, and too complicated for the FCC to decide itself.

If for some reason the FCC actually decides to implement a broadcast flag, they must also include consumer safeguards. The MPAA has a long history of obtaining rules and regulations that restrict citizens without any corresponding restrictions upon them! A very relevant example is the DMCA section K requirements designed to protect video rentals from unauthorized copying.

The MPAA obtained a mandate that all VCRs must have MacroVision/CopyGuard built-in so that rental videotapes could not be copied. The problem is that the DMCA section K mandate did not limit the use of copy protection — resulting in virtually all videotapes being copy protected, not just rentals. The movie industry misuses the rental tape protection clause at direct cost to consumers. This policy has personally cost me money, by preventing me from making back-up copies of my toddler's favorite VHS tapes (he wore out 3 tapes, 2 of which I repurchased).

The MPAA, television networks, and cable carriers cannot be trusted to properly decide when a transmission can have the flag activated. These organizations are oligarchies that have consistently shown little or no responsiveness to consumers. If the FCC see fit to mandate copy protection technology, only the FCC itself can properly make the decision of when something can be copy protected!

Do not fall for a "free market" argument — if this was a true free market they would not need government mandates for a broadcast flag! If the FCC mandates a broadcast flag, it must also mandate when and how the flag can be used. Needless to say this is a complex issue, but that is the natural consequence of the

government getting involved in mandating these types of rules. The uses of the flag need to be set with widespread public input, including citizen and consumer groups. The flag use policy needs to be reviewed on a regular basis, at least annually.

To do any less is a brazen sell-out to the special interests of the MPAA at a direct cost to the electronics industry, the computer industry, and most importantly the US Citizens!

Sincerely,

Michael McKay

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445 12th Street, NW
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Sincerely,

D. W. Williams
719 S. Chimney Rock Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27409
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Michael Pruett
404 Flagg Ave
San Jose, CA 95128
USA

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Sincerely,

Todd Day
421 Camino Laguna Vista
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Masen Yaffee
29 Parker Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
USA

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Sincerely,

Michael Perry
5455 SE Campanario Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Blake Johnson
1300 Sundt Lane
Stoughton, WI 53589
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Joseph Houghtaling
319 East 25th Street
Apartment 3A
New York, NY 10010
USA

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Sincerely,

Jayson Vinssimo
5247 E. Wagoner Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
USA

Jeremy T. Goemaat
8101 N Walnut Creek Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322

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445 12th Street, NW
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Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

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Sincerely,

Jeremy T. Goemaat

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Sincerely,

Sachin Kandhari
1410 Sadler St
Apt 6B
Charlottesville, VA 22903
USA

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Jonas Gunter
17353 Harding Dr
Bowling Green, VA 22427
USA

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If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ross Alexander
29 Carsam Street
Fanwood, NJ 07023
USA

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Copps,

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Sincerely,

Charles Roberts
403 Danforth
Cary, NC 27511
USA

Jack Shapiro
3737 NE Alameda St.
Portland, OR 97212

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Jack Shapiro

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D C 20554

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Sincerely,

Kevin Young
3865 S Village Dr
New Palestine, IN 46163
USA

October 14, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Jason Young
1609 Westlake Dr
Plano, TX 75075
USA